

New law creates the South Central Louisiana Solid Waste District. Provides that the purpose of the district is to provide solid waste management in the participating parishes and municipalities, including the collection, transportation, disposal, and recycling of solid waste and control over any other waste reduction programs. New law provides that the operation and management of any landfills or other facilities created, established, or utilized by the district shall be subject to the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act.

New law provides that the district may be composed of all territory within parishes of Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary, and Terrebonne, and may include all territory within any municipality within such parishes at the request of the governing authority of the municipality.

New law creates a district board of commissioners consisting of two members from each participating parish. Provides that two commissioners shall be appointed to the board by each parish governing authority in the district. Also provides that one of the two commissioners from each parish may be a member of its parish governing authority. If one or more municipalities in any participating parish desires to participate in the district, then each municipality shall submit to the parish governing authority one nominee for membership on the board, and the parish governing authority shall select one of its commissioners from the nominees. Provides that terms of commissioners shall be concurrent with that of the appointing authority.

New law provides that in order to be included in the district on or before July 1, 2000, the governing authority of an eligible parish or municipality must enact an ordinance declaring its membership in the district on or before July 1, 2000. New law further provides that in order to be included in the district after July 1, 2000, the governing authority of an eligible parish or municipality not already a member must enact an ordinance declaring its intention for membership and also obtain authorization from a majority of the entire board of commissioners of the district approving the inclusion of that parish or municipality in the district.

New law provides that a governing authority no longer wishing to be a member of the district may pass an ordinance dissolving its membership in the district. Also provides that such action by a governing authority shall not impair the obligations, validity, or security of any bonds or other debt obligations issued by the district, and that the governing authority shall continue to be obligated to fulfill its proportionate share of financial obligations entered into by the district during its membership.

New law provides for general powers and duties of the board of commissioners, including employing necessary personnel, entering into contracts with fees dependent on the amount of waste handled, making rules governing the conduct of solid waste disposal operations of the district, and representing the public interest in the management of solid waste in the participating parishes and municipalities, including the collection, transportation, disposal, and recycling of solid waste and control over any other waste reduction programs.

New law provides that commissioners may receive compensation in the form of a per diem for attendance at meetings of the board and actual mileage expenses, not to exceed per diem for more than two meetings per month. Provides that maximum rates for per diem and mileage shall not exceed rates for members of the legislature.

New law provides that district shall be a political subdivision of the state, and shall have the power of taxation and power to incur debt and issue bonds and to call an election for the purpose of imposing any authorized tax or incurring debt, provided that no tax-increasing measures shall be imposed until the governing authorities of the parishes in the district have approved the calling of an election for that purpose and until a majority of the qualified electors in each parish voting in an election have approved the additional taxes.

New law provides for officers of the district, including a president, vice president, and treasurer, and for an office for the board of commissioners. Provides that officers shall serve one year or until successors are appointed.

New law provides that its provisions shall not impair the obligations, validity, or effect of any contract, between any parish or municipality and persons providing solid waste management, in existence or effect on effective date of new law or effective date such parish or municipality is included in the district.

New law provides that any municipality that does not desire to be a member of the district, but is located in a parish that is a member of the district, shall not be required to dispose of its waste within the district.

Effective upon signature of governor (July 9, 1999).

(Adds R.S. 33:8061-8067)